

**AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS**

1 1. (currently amended) A method of operating a combined on-line  
2 and physical retail store for an on-line shopper, comprising the  
3 steps of:  
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5 receiving at a web server an order for an item by an on-line  
6 shopper;

7 determining via the server ~~an~~ a real time approximate  
8 quantity of the item available for purchase by the on-line  
9 shopper;

10  
11 adjusting via the server the real time approximate quantity  
12 responsive to a quantity-held estimate of a number of units of  
13 the item held by in-person shoppers who physically removed said  
14 units of the item from inventory prior to checkout by the in-  
15 person shoppers to provide an adjusted quantity;  
16

17 comparing via the server the adjusted quantity with a first  
18 threshold; and  
19

20 when the adjusted quantity is less than the first threshold,  
21 invoking a corrective action.

22 2. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the quantity-held  
23 estimate is dependent upon an average number of the item

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1 purchased historically during a specified period of time.

1 3. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the quantity-held  
2 estimate is dependent upon a time of day.

1 4. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the quantity-held  
2 estimate is dependent upon a day of a week.

3 5. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the quantity-held  
4 estimate is dependent upon proximity to a holiday.

1 6. (cancelled)

2 7. (cancelled)

1 8. (cancelled)

1 9. (previously amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the step  
2 of invoking includes the steps of monitoring the approximate  
3 quantity when the adjusted quantity is less than the first  
4 threshold, and informing the on-line shopper when the approximate  
5 quantity falls below a second threshold.

1 10. (cancelled)

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1 11. (currently amended) A computer program product for  
2 instructing a server to operate a combined on-line and physical  
3 retail store, the computer program product comprising:

4 a computer readable medium;

5 first program instruction means for receiving at a web  
6 server an order for an item by an on-line shopper;

7 second program instruction means for determining via the  
8 server on a real time approximate quantity of the item available  
9 for purchase by the on-line shopper;

10 third program instruction means for adjusting via the server  
11 the real time approximate quantity responsive to a quantity-held  
12 estimate of a number of units of the item held by in-person  
13 shoppers who physically removed said units of the item from  
14 inventory prior to checkout by the in-person shoppers to provide  
15 an adjusted quantity;

16 fourth program instruction means for comparing via the  
17 server the adjusted quantity with a first threshold; and

18 fifth program instruction means for when the adjusted  
19 quantity is less than the first threshold, invoking a corrective  
20 action; and wherein

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1 all said program instruction means are recorded on said  
2 medium.

3 12. (currently amended) A method of deploying process software  
4 for operating a combined on-line and physical retail store, the  
5 method comprising:

6 installing the process software on a web server; and

7 invoking the process software to perform the steps of:

8 receiving at a web server an order for an item by an on-line  
9 shopper;

10 determining via the server on a real time approximate  
11 quantity of the item available for purchase by the on-line  
12 shopper;

13 adjusting via the server the real time approximate quantity  
14 responsive to a quantity-held estimate of a number of units of  
15 the item held by in-person shoppers who physically removed said  
16 units of the item from inventory prior to checkout by the in-  
17 person shoppers to provide an adjusted quantity;

18 comparing via the server the adjusted quantity with a first

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1 threshold; and

2 when the adjusted quantity is less than the first threshold,  
3 invoking a corrective action.

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